

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 121630Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1939

S E C R E T CAIRO 4872

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS EG
SUBJECT: SALE OF C-130'S

REF: STATE 086557

1. SINCE GAMASY WAS BUSY GETTING READY TO LEAVE FOR ROMANIA, I ASKED DATT TO ASCERTAIN THROUGH MAJOR GENERAL SHAWKET, DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (DMI), WITH WHOM GAMASY WANTED REFERENCE SUBJECT DISCUSSED. DATT DID SO APRIL 11 AND CONVEYED OUR SUGGESTION THAT EGYPTIANS SEND TEAM OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN GREATER DEPTH. THEY COULD COME ANYTIME AFTER CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF C-130'S HAS BEEN COMPLETED, I.E. ANYTIME AFTER APRIL 15. SHAWKET UNDERTOOK CHECK GAMASY'S WISHES.

2. IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING TODAY, SHAWKET STATED GAMASY HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED AT PROMPT INTEREST OF USG "EVEN BEFORE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE". GAMASY AGREED ANY EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE TEAM SHOULD GO TO US AND PERSONALLY DIRECTED COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE TO ASSEMBLE SAID TEAM FOR DEPARTURE AT ANYTIME WE INDICATED. TEAM WILL CONSIST OF SENIOR AIR FORCE OFFICERS (PILOT, NAVIGATOR, ENGINEER AND POSSIBLY ONE OTHER), WHO, ACCORDING TO DMI, WILL HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS. (NOTE: THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN). SHAWKET REQUESTED DATT FURNISH INFORMATION ASAP ON (A) DATE WHEN

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IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR TEAM TO ARRIVE IN US,

(B) WHERE AND TO WHOM THEY SHOULD REPORT, (C) WILL THEY BE MET AND (D) WILL EGYPTIAN TEAM MEMBERS BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS, I.E. MAKING RESERVATIONS AND PAYING FOR SAME. WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION RE THESE POINTS ASAP.

3. IN CONVEYING GAMASY'S PLEASURE WITH RAPID USG ACTION, SHAWKET ALSO STATED MINWAR THINKS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR BOTH GOE AND USG TO HAVE C-130'S IN PLACE BY OCTOBER SO THAT THEY CAN BE FLOWN IN OCTOBER 6 FLY-PAST. GAMASY HAD EMPHASIZED POSITIVE IMPACT ON TROOP MORALE AND MORALE OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE THAT SUCH A DEMONSTRATION WOULD REPRESENT. IN VIEW WAY TALK WAS GOING, DATT OPTED NOT TO SURFACE THE LOCKHEED PROPOSAL (DELAY UNTIL DECEMBER) AS CONTAINED IN REFTTEL. SUGGEST THIS MIGHT BE RAISED WITH TEAM WHEN IT COMES TO US.

COMMENT: GIVEN GOE'S DESIRE HAVE C-130'S SOONEST, AND FACT WE ARE ALREADY BEHIND IN OUR COMMITMENT, I DOUBT THAT EGYPTIANS WILL BE INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER DELAY IN ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, IT IS WORTH TRYING OUT ON THEM SO LONG AS WE MAKE CLEAR WE WILL BE GUIDED BY GOE WISHES.

4. IN MY MEETING WITH MUBARAK TODAY, I TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE RAISING WITH GAMASY VARIOUS TECHNICAL MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE PROPOSED SALE OF C-130'S. MUBARAK WAS PLEASED, BUT AGAIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD AGREE TO HAVING EGYPTIAN PILOTS TRAINED IN IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA ON C-130'S. IN BOTH PLACES, HE EMPHASIZED, TRAINING WOULD BE COST-FREE. ALTERNATIVELY, HE AGAIN ASKED IF USG COULD PROVIDE C-130 TRAINING FREE OF CHARGE. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SUCH GRATIS TRAINING IN US WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE, BUT ASSURED HIM HIS VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE FULLY WEIGHED BY US IN PLANNING FOR C-130 SALE. ON OUR PART, WE WOULD GIVE OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS THE BENEFIT OF OUR BEST ADVICE ON HOW MATTER CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVELY HANDLED. EILTS

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